

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00
SS-15 SP-02 L-03 H-01 NSCE-00 PRS-01 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 OIC-02 AID-05 IGA-02 SSO-00 INRE-00
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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USEEC

PASS TO UNDER SECRETARY COOPER AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY
KATZ FROM MEISSNER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNCTAD, EFIN
SUBJECT: UNCTAD DEBT NEGOTIATIONS: AN EC DEMARCHE IN
WASHINGTON

1. AT LUNCH TODAY THE DANISH REPRESENTATIVE PASSED TO
ME AN EC NOTE WHICH WAS DRAFTED HERE AND WILL BE PRE-
SENTED TO ONE OF YOU IN WASHINGTON ON WEDNESDAY, 25
JANUARY. THE NOTE POLITELY REQUESTS (USES THE WORD
BELIEVES) THAT THE U.S. JOIN THE EC IN TABLING THE
US/EC DEBT PAPER. THE EC DESIRES THAT YOU RESPOND
RAPIDLY SO THE ANSWER CAN BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION
PRIOR TO THE END OF THE PRESENT UNCTAD DEBT MEETING IN
GENEVA. THE NOTE WILL BE PRESENTED BY THE DANISH
AMBASSADOR AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EC.

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2. THE NOTE IS AN OUTGROWTH OF MY DISCUSSIONS IN PARIS
AND GENEVA. WE HAVE RECEIVED CONTINUED PRESSURE TO JOIN
THE EC IN TABLING THE US/EC PAPER. I HAVE EMPHASIZED
THAT THE DECISION NOT TO TABLE WAS MADE AT THE UNDER
SECRETARY LEVEL IN WASHINGTON AND MY INSTRUCTIONS WERE
FIRM. I HAVE EXPLAINED FULLY THE BACKGROUND OF OUR
POSITION. ON MONDAY THE DANISH ASKED INFORMALLY WHETHER

I OR WASHINGTON WOULD BE INSULTED IF A DIRECT POLITICAL REQUEST TO TABLE THE PAPER WAS MADE. I SAID WE WOULD NOT BE INSULTED OR OFFENDED AND WOULD TAKE THESE CONCERNS INTO CONSIDERATION. I WAS QUITE CLEAR THAT SUCH A REQUEST WOULD NOT NECESSARILY CHANGE THE AMERICAN POSITION.

3. THE PROS AND CONS OF U.S. CONSENT TO TABLE THE US/EC PAPER STILL REMAIN ROUGHLY THE SAME AS TWO WEEKS AGO. THE EC IS OBVIOUSLY SATISFIED TO TABLE THE PAPER AT THE END OF THIS MEETING. NO ONE BELIEVES THE G-77 WILL ACCEPT THE PAPER AS IS. THE GERMANS ARE HOLDING FOR NO CHANGES IF THE PAPER IS TABLED. FRENCH WILL ACCEPT SEMANTIC CHANGES AND MOST OF THE EC IS WITH THEM. THE DUTCH AND DANES SEEM WILLING TO GO FURTHER. THE EC IN MY ESTIMATION WILL NOT TABLE WITHOUT THE U.S. THIS WEEK.

4. WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO MOVE THIS SESSION TO DEAL WITH ONLY PROCEDURAL ISSUES. IF THE PAPER IS NOT TABLED IT WILL NOT OBSTRUCT THE WORK THE U.S. WISHES TO COMPLETE THIS WEEK. I SEE NO REASON TO CHANGE OUR POSITION AT THIS MEETING. HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD CONSIDER REASSURING THE EC THAT WE DO STAND BEHIND THE PAPER, BOTH CRISIS AND STRUCTURAL SECTIONS, AND OUR MINDS ARE OPEN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF TABLING AT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING.

5. IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT COREA MENTIONED IN HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPEECH THAT WHAT WILL BE SOUGHT AT THE MINISTERIAL ON THIS SUBJECT IS BROAD AGREEMENT ON GUIDELINE CONCEPTS WITH NEGOTIATION OF SPECIFIC WORDING TO FOLLOW OVER SOME UNSPECIFIED TIME PERIOD. G-77 MEMBERS ARE NOT PRESSING FOR TABLING BECAUSE THEY CONSIDER THE PAPER WAS TABLED IN THE EXPERTS REPORT. INDICATION WE HAVE GOTTEN FROM G-77 IS THAT IMPROVEMENT IN ODA "QUALITY" IS MORE URGENT TO G-77 THAN GUIDELINES. THEY MAY WELL OPT FOR COREA'S IDEA OF NEGOTIATING PARTICULARS ON GUIDELINES AFTER THE MINISTERIAL SO THAT MINISTERIAL WILL FOCUS ON ODA RELIEF. IMMEDIATE TRANSFERS TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER CONCEPTUAL RHETORIC.

6. TEXT OF EC NOTE FOLLOWS: QUOTE:

AT THE SECOND SESSION IN UNCTAD OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF EXPERTS ON THE INDEBTEDNESS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN GENEVA, DECEMBER 5 -16, 1977, IT WAS AGREED AS A RESULT OF CONTACTS BETWEEN THE EEC AND THE US GOVERNMENT THAT THE JOINT EEC/US PROPOSALS FROM THE CIEC ON FEATURES WHICH COULD PROVIDE GUIDANCE IN FUTURE OPERATIONS RELATING TO DEBT PROBLEMS PURSUANT

TO UNCTAD RESOLUTION 94 (IV), COULD BE INTRODUCED IN UNCTAD AT THE DEBT EXPERTS MEETING FOR REFERENCE. THE GROUP B PAPER ON THE DEBT SITUATION OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT DEVELOPMENTS SINCE CIEC CONFIRMED THE PERTINENCE AND THE VALUE OF THESE PROPOSALS.

THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSALS WAS, CONSEQUENTLY, ANNEXED TO THE GROUP B PAPER AS A REFERENCE DOCUMENT FOR THE TASK OF THE EXPERTS GROUP AND, ULTIMATELY OF THE 9TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE TDB AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

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KATZ FROM MEISSNER

CONSISTENT WITH THE AGREEMENT REACHED AT THE CIEC THAT THE WORK DONE ON THE PROPOSALS COULD FORM A USEFUL BASIS FOR CONSIDERATION IN OTHER APPROPRIATE FORA, THE JOINT EEC/US PROPOSALS ARE A VITAL ELEMENT IN THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE.

THE EEC IS CONCERNED THAT AT THE TIME OF THE SECOND PART OF THE 9TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE TDB, THE MANDATE OF WHICH IS TO PREPARE THE ITEMS ON THE AGENDA FOR THE MINISTERIAL MEETING IN MARCH, ONLY THE GROUP OF 77 HAS

CLEARLY STATED THAT THEIR PROPOSALS ARE FOR CONSIDERATION
BY THE MINISTERS AND NOT JUST FOR REFERENCE.

THE EEC BELIEVES THAT, IN ORDER TO RESTORE THE BALANCE
AND TO AVOID CREATING THE IMPRESSION OF NOT BEING
WILLING TO ADHERE TO OUR OWN PROPOSALS FROM THE CIEC,
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GROUP B SHOULD NOW MAKE A DECLARATION INDICATING THAT
THESE PROPOSALS SHOULD BE REGARDED AS BEING PUT FORWARD
FOR ACCEPTANCE BY THE MINISTERIAL MEETING ON AN EQUAL
FOOTING WITH THOSE ALREADY MADE BY THE GROUP OF 77.

THIS DECLARATION SHOULD BE MADE BEFORE THE END OF THE
PRESENT SESSION IN PREPARATION OF THE MINISTERIAL
MEETING.

GROUP B SHOULD ALSO BE READY TO MOVE A DRAFT RESOLUTION
EMBODYING THESE PROPOSALS IN CASE THAT SHOULD BECOME
NECESSARY IF THE GROUP OF 77 TAKE THAT STEP THEMSELVES.
UNQUOTE. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

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